

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) A method for producing an inorganic oxide powder which comprises a step of continuously introducing, into a dry-way pulverizer, an inorganic oxide in an amount of 100 parts by volume and air, nitrogen or a gas mixture thereof in an amount of from about 25,000 to about 160,000 parts by volume to pulverize the inorganic oxide in ~~by~~ the dry-way pulverizer.

6. (original) A method for producing an inorganic oxide powder according to claim 5, wherein the dry-way pulverizer is a dry-way pulverizer having a system for introducing a gas to a pulverization chamber of the pulverizer through a pipeline from an air supply apparatus.

7. (currently amended) A method for producing an inorganic oxide powder according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the dry-way pulverizer is a mill selected from the group consisting of a rotation ball mill, a vibration ball mill, a planetary ball mill and a stirring mill.

8. (currently amended) A method for producing an inorganic oxide powder according to claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the dry-way pulverizer is a medium-stirring-type pulverizer.

9. (currently amended) A method for producing an ~~inorganic oxide~~ alumina powder which comprises a step of pulverizing an aluminum oxide with purity of about 99.9% or higher

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and a BET specific surface area of from about 1 to about 70 m²/g ~~by~~ in a medium-stirring-type pulverizer ~~in a dry way~~ under dry conditions at a specific energy consumption of from about 0.3 to about 1 kWh/kg.

10. (currently amended) A method for producing an ~~inorganic oxide~~ alumina powder according to claim 9, wherein the aluminum oxide is an aluminum oxide obtained by an alkoxide method comprising a step of hydrolyzing an organoaluminium compound.